

A man from Rotherham has been jailed for almost 4 years after he recklessly set a fire to a petrol station forecourt.

The court heard how on 12 of November 2021 at 02:45am, an arsonist visited the Jet Petrol station on Masbrough Street where he started a fire two metres away from the gas pumps after being barred from filling up an unapproved container.

Scott Dearing, aged 36, of Orchard Flatts Crescents in Rotherham was sentenced today at Sheffield Crown Court after pleading guilty to arson endangering life on 14th of December 2021.

When interviewed by the police, the defendant said that his mind “was in a vacation” until realising the seriousness of his actions.

Dearing proceeded to fill up a green container with petrol, then went back and proceeded to fill a second smaller gallon, not approved by law.

He was then stopped for safety reasons, by the staff member working there that night, who once seeing what Dearing was doing, proceeded to turn off the gas pumps.

Prosecuting, Neil Coxon, said this infuriated Dearing and he started pouring petrol over the windows and the newspaper stands of the shop, “gesturing slit throat to the cashier”.

Dearing then set a fire on the forecourt of the gas station two metres away from the gas pumps, and left, but shortly returned to extinguish the fire using sand.

Defence lawyer, Ed Moss, said: “He didn’t understand the regulations, he has completely overreacted.”

Out of panic, the cashier pressed the panic button alerting the police, which attended within short time and detained Dearing.

Mr Moss said: “He stayed and waited for the police when he could have left.

“There is no evidence this fire was deliberately set which is the opposite from what was portrayed.”

In a statement given to the police, the victim who worked there by himself that night said: “I thought I was going to be serious hurt and serious damage would be done to the petrol station.”

Judge Megan Rhys said: “You totally lost control.”

“I believe the victim was absolutely terrified being isolated by himself in the shop.”